

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2128

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILITARY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV CHIEF OF STAFF

1. YUGOSLAV ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF POTOVAR PAID VISIT TO ITALY NOVEMBER 12-16 AT INVITATION OF ITALIAN DEFENSE CHIEF, ADMIRAL HENKE. VISIT WAS RETURN CALL FOR TRIP TO BELGRADE OF FORMER ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF MERU IN JUNE, 1972 AND IS PART OF CONTINUING ITALO-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS.

2. ACCORDING SOURCE IN FONOFF, POTOVAR VISIT WAS CONSIDERED SUCCESS FROM ITALIAN VIEWPOINT. AMONG VISIT RESULTS WAS CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN MERU AND FORMER YUGOSLAV CHIEF OF STAFF BUBANY ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS CONDUCTED NEAR BORDER AREAS. THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT TO RAISE VOLUME OF MILITARY EXCHANGES. YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF ITALIAN 105/14 MOUNTAIN CANNON WAS DISCUSSED AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. YUGOSLAVS ALSO INDICATED DESIRE TO BUY LAND TO LAND MISSILES BUT ITALIANS REFUSED. POTOVAR LET ITALIANS KNOW THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH QUALITY OF HELICOPTER OUTPUT PRODUCED AT MOSTAR UNDER FRENCH LICENSE. YUGOSLAVS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AUGUSTA-BELL MAKES BETTER PRODUCT AND INDICATED POSSIBLE INTEREST IN FUTURE PURCHASES.

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3. DURING STAY, POTOVAR WAS RECEIVED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE

TANASSI AND MADE SERIES OF VISITS TO ITALIAN MILITARY AND TRAINING
INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING BERSAGLIERI TANK REGIMENT AT
CIVITAVECCHIA, AIR ACADEMY AT NAPLES AND NAVAL SCHOOL AT TARANTO.
FINALLY, TANASSI AND HENKE ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO VISIT
YUGOSLAVIA DURING 1974. VOLPE

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